

MICHIGAN INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT [MiIPL]

Energy savings due to the fast payback in energy efficiency measures have financed our onsite renewable power, providing employment and income for Michigan companies such as: Energy Conservation Services out of Sturgis, Alternative Power Solutions out of Eastpointe, Mechanical Energy Systems out of Canton and Kulich Enterprises out of Wyandotte among others. Imagine what it would mean for the new renewable economy if activities like that were made for a million similar stories across this great State, if every home with a south facing roof could put up at least one solar panel and was part of a efficient building code. Wouldn't it be great if we no longer then had to pay \$20 billion/year to heat our homes and light our living rooms.

Michigan's economic strength has been the ability to transform raw material into durable goods. Michigan now has an opportunity to provide jobs, new manufacturing that will serve the renewable economy, a cleaner environment and a brighter future for our children and our children's children.

Specifically, we are very excited about the legislation that is before you.

- MiIPL supports HB 4562 but would like to see the legislature step out in faith that a 25% RPS by 2025 is more than "a goal", but a firm commitment.
- MiIPL also supports HB 4319 that sees a realistic goal of 20% renewable energy by 2020.
- We are very supportive of HB 4254 which provides reasonable standards for siting guidelines.
- We would like to see solar thermal credits included in whatever bill gets passed [provisions are provided in HB 4539 and HB 4319]. Solar thermal is generally more cost effective than any renewable electricity generating technology and we believe all users who install solar thermal should be entitled to solar thermal RECs.
- And, of course, if an RPS is going to succeed it will have to be accompanied by a strong energy efficiency bill. Efficiency is the most cost effective way of lowering our energy use and will make renewable technologies all that much more efficient.

This is a critical moment in our state's history. You have the opportunity to provide visionary leadership that will shape what kind of state and world we bequeath to our children and our children's children. The world is changing. We are no longer an isolated peninsula. Whether we want to admit it or not, we are all entering a carbon constrained world. Michigan can choose to stay on the sidelines and be relegated to the backwater of the new world economy. Or we can seize this moment to live up to our best ideals and be a leader not only in this country but across this globe.

And who is my neighbor? Well, all of our neighbors will be in your gratitude and so will your children. We in the faith community, in your churches, synagogues and temples, will be keeping you in prayer.

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